



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TIM ACKERT
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Planning & Development Committee
Senator Steve Casano, Co-Chairman
Representative Jason Rojas, Co-Chairman

RANKING MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

In Support of SB 817 An Act Establishing a Property Tax Program to Encourage the Preservation of Historic Barns

Dear Co-Chairs, Senator Casano and Representative Rojas, Ranking Members, Senator Fasano and Representative Aman, and esteemed members of The Planning and Development Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak on Senate Bill 817. My name is Tim Ackert and I represent the 8th district which includes Columbia, Coventry, Tolland and Vernon a district which happily has many historic barns.

At first glance this bill puts an additional burden on the local municipalities by granting tax relief to barn owners. In contacting my local town leaders I had some positive feedback for this legislation. If the historic barn (over 75 years old and listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places) is not kept in good repair most owners remove them. Barns have been disappearing at an alarming rate and our historic vistas are forever changing.

If the barns are raised the tax on them disappears actually reducing the property tax for the municipality. If they are maintained and keep their value or increase their value they will be assessed and the property tax calculation will increase and potentially offset the credit. I believe the towns will see little or no lost revenue and potentially a gain in the future.

Since our recent storms many older barns have felt the weight of the snow and are in need of repair. Barn restoration companies provide good paying jobs and I believe this might help jump start the revival for these businesses. Please support SB 817 and help keep our historic barns part of the New England landscape. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Representative Tim Ackert